

**From:** John Girt  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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To whom it may concern:

I have been a significant user of Microsoft products for years. The existence of a single entity that can use unrestricted power to get its way is not in the best interest of our economy. I am a software developer myself, but couldn't even attempt to compete with Microsoft. I develop custom systems and use development tools from various vendors. My issue is my inability to convince many clients that non-Microsoft tools are better in many areas. Because of this, these innovative products do not get a chance in the market place. I truly believe that the best thing for consumers and Microsoft Shareholders, is it's immediate split-up. The original split-up suggestions are heard were way too soft. I recommend that it be split as follows.

- 1.. Operating System and Networking software (including internet tools such as Internet Explorer.)
- 2.. Development tools and databases (Visual Basic, compilers and SQL/Server)
- 3.. Workgroup Tools (Exchange, Application Servers(.NET), Schedule Plus)
- 4.. Desk-top applications (The Office Suite of productivity tools, games, etc.)

Without fair competition innovation is stifled. As individual companies each would be able to flourish in their own realm. And after at least two years, they could be allowed to develop competing products. This would give them a better idea of the effort required to compete against one of there own existing products and would most likely result in better products for consumers.

I have seen the quality of Microsoft products deteriorate due to the lack of competition. You can't even get help anymore with out talking to a staple. XP was supposed to be the best operating system ever yet they had a security hole in it that you could drive a truck through.

AT&T share holders who held all of there original AT&T stock when it split have increased their portfolio several fold. I think the same would happen with Microsoft stock. My wife and I hold several hundred shares of Microsoft stock and believe that it would help its value.

Thank You

John Girt  
John Girt & Associate  
(206)399-4977  
John@Girt.NET